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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR 1925.

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F. W. E. LEE, Printer & Stationer, Market Street, Barnstaple.



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Bear Street,  
Barnstaple.

*April 1926.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Barnstaple Town Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1925. This year the Minister has directed that it should be a survey report and it is therefore fuller than those of the preceding four years.

Your obedient servant,

**Herbert C. Jonas.**

## 1. Natural and Social conditions of the area.

Area (acres) 2,396.

Population 1925 (estimated) 14,650.

Inhabited Houses, 3,720.

Number of separate families or separate occupiers, 4,184.

Rateable Value, £68,034.

1 penny rate, £242.

The Borough of Barnstaple is situated on the banks of the tidal portion of the river Taw. The Estuary is wide and the tides rise at Barnstaple Bridge to as much as 26 feet at the highest springs. The houses of the Town have been showing a tendency in the last four years to spread outwards unto the surrounding higher ground. Barnstaple is the centre of a large Agricultural area, and by its central position on the lines of communication (road and rail) is the most important Town in the whole of North Devon. Cabinet making, Gloving, and Lace Making are the main manufacturing industries. The Shipbuilding restarted during the war has ceased to exist at any rate for the present and so far as can be seen for the immediate future also.

## 2. Vital Statistics.

### BIRTHS.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate and )			
Illegitimate    )	117	128	245
Of these there were			
Illegitimates	6	7	13

The Birth rate per thousand living 16·7.

### DEATHS.

Total number 214 giving a death rate per thousand of 14·6.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis, 0  
Other Causes, 0

## INFANT MORTALITY.

15 Legitimate and 1 Illegitimate (that is 16 babies in all) died before attaining the age of 12 months.

## INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total rate for the area	65'5.
Legitimate babies	64'5.
Illegitimate „	77'0.

Deaths of children from :—

Measles all ages	0
Whooping Cough	6
Diarrhoea (under 2)	0

There have been five deaths from Influenza. The epidemic in this area was neither severe nor very extensive.

There were six deaths from Pneumonia and 20 cases of this disease were notified.

## Summary of the Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, Clinics and other Institutions in the District.

Professional nursing in the homes.

### GENERAL.

There are two district nurses both supported by voluntary effort and their services are much appreciated and utilized.

### INFECTIOUS.

There is no provision.

### MIDWIVES.

There are 8 registered Midwives in the borough. One of these is maintained by the Local Authority.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the Local Authority, at 113, Boutport Street. M.O.H. for the

Borough is in medical charge and Miss Quare is the Health Visitor. This institution is increasing its work and usefulness. A School Clinic is provided at the same address, and is run by Dr. Gibbs the School Medical Officer for the Barnstaple Education Authority, which is separated from that of the county. Treatment is not undertaken at these clinics except for the simplest conditions such as Impetigo, etc., where the parents would not take the children for treatment to their own doctor.

#### TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

This institution is provided at 9, Castle Street, by the County Council and is in charge of Dr. Swan. Dr. J. C. Dixey is Assistant M.O.

#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

There is a clinic provided by C.C., assisted by a grant from the Ministry. Sessions are held at 4 p.m. for women and 7 p.m. for men on Fridays. Intermediate attendances are arranged daily when the patients are seen by the orderly in the case of males. For the women special appointments are made for each case with the nurse, who attends from the North Devon Infirmary.

### Hospitals.

#### HOSPITALS PROVIDED by the Authority.

There is an adapted building for the reception of Infectious diseases.

#### HOSPITALS AVAILABLE.

The North Devon Infirmary. Usual number of Inpatients about 50. There is a special ward for Children. Negotiations are in progress for the admission of maternity cases under the County Council scheme. There is a good X-ray plant established. During the last year Two Honorary Physicians were appointed. This should much increase the usefulness of the hospital from the Medical point of view. North Devon Dispensary provides an Out Patient service only. Both these are supported by Voluntary Contributions only. Small Pox is in the hands of the County Medical Officer.



## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Motor Ambulance belonging to the Infirmary, available to the general public on payment, and to the patients of that Institution free of charge.

There is a Horse drawn ambulance for the conveyance of infectious cases.

## Officers of the Local Authority engaged in Sanitary work.

Medical Officer Health, part time officer : Dr. S. R. Gibbs School medical officer, also part time. Mr. A. E. Tucker, A.R.S.I. and M.S.I.A., is Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, Inspector of Petroleum under the Explosives Act. He has under him one assistant Mr. Symons. Miss Quare is the Health Visitor.

## LIST OF THE ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Local. Barnstaple Market Act, 1852. Provisional order, 1907, partially amending and altering the above.

Adoptive Public Health Amendments Act, 1890, parts 2, 3, 4, and 5. The Whole of the Public Health Amendments Act, 1907, except sections 48, 51, 68, 78, 82, 85, 91, 92, 93, and 94.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the Area is supplied by the Barnstaple Water Co. The Supply has been ample and of an excellent quality throughout the period under review.

The water is derived from the river Yeo at the intake near Bratton Cross about five miles outside the town. The supply is constant. All the houses in the Borough are supplied from this source mostly by pipes, though there are some houses served by a common standpipe. The river Yeo runs through an agricultural wooded country, not thickly populated. Possibilities of small local pollutions of course exist, but the district is well inspected, no trouble attributable to the water

supply has arisen during the five years under discussion. No evidence of contamination by lead has occurred.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The leat running from the Yeo to the town mill gets polluted occasionally in its short passage through the Borough by discharges from the skinworks upon its banks. The proprietors are however exercising all necessary care in seeing that the discharges are as diluted as possible.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The town sewerage is discharged into the river Taw untreated. The point of discharge is in the tidal portion of the river where there is a very large dilution owing to the size of the tides. The sewerage is held up at low water by tide valves. Tests as to the Oxygen saturation of the water in the neighbourhood of the outfall have been carried out on several occasions during the past two years. On every occasion the saturation was satisfactory. On no occasion was it below 95% of the normal.

An extensive relaying of the main sewer in Bear Street, has been carried out during the past year.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

This is almost entirely on the water carriage system. There are a few earth closets in cottages gardens, situated in the more distant parts of the area.

## SCAVENGING.

Collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council by means of uncovered carts. The condition of many of the ash boxes still leaves much to be desired although the position in that respect has improved somewhat during the last few years. There is no council scheme being carried out for the gradual replacement of insanitary boxes. The number of fixed receptacles is extremely small if indeed there are any at all.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspector for

the year. The attention of the Council is called to the number of tubercular beasts which is very considerably less than it was last year. Expressed in per centages this year comes out at 0'775, against 1'35 last year. A reduction of very nearly 50%. The attention of milk dealers is specially called to Mr. Tucker's remarks under that head.

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2, CASTLE STREET,

BARNSTAPLE,

13th March, 1926.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Barnstaple.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you this my Fifth Annual Report on the administrative work carried on during the year 1925.

Only 38 Complaints were received of nuisances, each of which was satisfactorily dealt with. This number is less than a third of the complaints received 5 years ago. The following is a comparison for the last 5 years.

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
120	129	74	69	38

Nuisances were abated at 137 different premises.

The drains of 15 houses were renewed, and repairs were carried out in 13 instances. Altogether 209 tests were applied. The laying of the new sewer in Bear Street involved the connecting of 43 house drains. A considerable amount of time was taken up with this work. In the majority of cases the portions of drain between the interceptors and the sewer were found to be defective, and 60 tests were applied in addition to the number already mentioned. 8 drains were without inter-

cepting traps, and these were duly fixed. The laying of the Bear Street Sewer revealed the fact that the drain taking the drainage of the eight houses on the east side of Ebberly Lawn was an old brick drain. This has now been re-laid with glazed stoneware pipes.

New drains have been provided at Trinity Girls School and at Pilton School. Washing accommodation has also been provided.

At the former school new pedestal closets were fixed with a flushing cistern to each. This is a decided improvement from the trough system which did exist.

16 houses were inspected under the Housing Acts, and 43 houses under the Public Health Acts. In 30 cases repairs, etc., have been carried out.

### Meat and Food Inspection.

759 visits have been made to the 6 slaughterhouses in the town, and every effort is made to inspect as many carcasses as possible before removal from the slaughterhouses. It is of course impossible to examine all, as the notices received of regular slaughtering hours as required by the Meat Regulations cover in some cases the whole of every day of the week. For instance one notice gives the times of slaughter from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day of the week. It does not follow that slaughtering is taking place continuously during the timed stated, but in this case the butcher does not know from hour to hour sometimes what will be required. It would however be helpful if such times could be limited as much as possible. The use of the Council's Public Abattoir for all animals killed for consumption in the Borough is therefore desirable. In spite of the fact that there are 5 so called Private Slaughterhouses (it is pleasing) to be able to state that co-operation exists in this very important matter of meat inspection.

Certain minor improvements have been carried out at the Public Abattoir in Tuly Street, which includes the lighting of the premises by electricity. This is a decided acquisition.

I should like to put on record my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me by the Caretaker of the Abattoir.

Credit is also due to him for the general cleanliness of the premises.

The approximate number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during 1925, was 27,179 and comprises :—

Bovines	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
1,809	23,210	413	1747

The following is a list of what was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year together with the totals for the last 5 years.

				1925	Total for 5 years.
Carcases of Beef	...	...	...	35	150
Fore quarters of Beef	...	...	...	6	21
Hind quarters of Beef	...	...	...	2	6
Cows Heads	...	...	...	3	15
Beef (fresh)	...	...	...	227 lbs.	504 lbs.
„ (frozen)	...	...	...	...	288 lbs.
„ (salt)	...	...	...	...	130 lbs.
„ (sides of)	...	...	...	...	2
Carcases of Mutton	...	...	...	58	106
Fore quarters of Mutton	...	...	...	2	4
Hind quarters of Mutton	...	...	...	4	4
Mutton	...	...	...	70 lbs.	130 lbs.
Carcases of Veal	...	...	...	..	8
Carcases of Pork	...	...	...	13	42
Fore quarters of Pork	...	...	...	...	4
Hind quarters of Pork	...	...	...	2	2
Pigs Heads	...	...	...	96	248
Pork	...	...	...	30 lbs.	148 lbs.
Bacon	...	..	...	...	56 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	60 lbs.	626 lbs.
Potatoes	...	...	...	262 lbs.	262 lbs.
Offal	...	...	...	6,562 lbs.	11, 930 lbs.

Only 14 of the 35 Carcasses of Beef were found to be Tubercular. Emaciation and Hydraemia accounting for 16, Jaundice 1, Inflammation 2, Decomposition 1 and Fever 1. The 6 fore quarters of Beef were all Tubercular. Of the Mutton 35 carcasses were condemned on account of Emaciation associated with diseases, 9 Inflammatory condition, 2 De-



composition, 3 Septicaemia, 2 Hydraemia, 2 Pleurisy, 2 Moribund, 1 Jaundice, 1 Fever, and 1 Septic Pneumonia. With regard to the Pork carcasses 5 were Tubercular, 2 Hydraemia, 1 Septic Pneumonia, 1 Emaciation, 1 Moribund, 2 Inflammatory condition, and 1 Fever. All pigs heads were affected with Tuberculosis. The total weight of condemned meat was 13 tons.

595 visits were made to Butchers shops, etc. It is very satisfactory to state that efforts have been made in certain cases to do what is absolutely necessary to protect the meat from contamination in the shops, viz:—provide glass fronts and all the shops other than three in the Butchers' Row are now provided with them.

### Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

42 Samples were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst, and all were found to be genuine.

The following table shows the articles analysed.

Article.	Formal.	Informal.	In course of delivery.	Total.
Milk ... ..	12	2	6	20
Butter ... ..	4	1		5
Clotted Cream ...	6	1		7
Ice Cream ... ..	6	...		6
Gooseberry Pulp ...	...	1		1
Damson Pulp ...	...	1		1
Marmalade Pulp ...	...	2		2

The average percentage of fat in the samples of milk was 3'86 and the non fatty solids 9'04.

The highest fat content recorded 4'75% and the lowest 3'5%. This is very satisfactory indeed.

The following table shows the number of samples taken during the last 5 years, together with the number found to be adulterated.

Article	Samples taken	No. found adulterated.
Milk	83	7
Butter	42	2
Cream	7	...
Ice Cream	6	...
Sweets	1	...
Jam Pulp	5	...
	<hr/> 144	<hr/> 9

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 49 Registered Retailers of Milk residing within the Borough, of which 2 are wholesalers also.

There are 10 Wholesalers on the register, and of these 4 are also retailers. In addition to the above there are 9 retailers in the Borough whose premises are situated outside.

107 inspections have been made to these premises. The limewashing of the Cowsheds is carried out at the appointed times viz: in May and October. There is a gradual improvement in the way in which the cowsheds are kept, and tendency on the part of the producers to ignore the old fashioned ideas. There is nevertheless room for much improvement in certain cases. The floors of two more cowsheds have been cemented and properly drained, and in three cases water has been laid on to the mangers.

The plentiful supply of water is one of the most essential points with regard to the production of milk. The question of Clean Milk is to receive more attention in the near future than we have yet known. In order that milk may be reasonably clean at the time of consumption it is necessary that the producer, the retailer, and the customer should each play his part towards that end. Each producer in the town has recently received a thesis on the production of Clean Milk, which is the outcome of a Clean Milk Course which the Council gave me the opportunity of attending at Seale-Hayne Agricultural College. It is hoped that full advantage will be taken of the information given, and that the production of Grade "A" Milk will eventually be the result. The retailer should be clean in

his person, and should refrain from smoking on his rounds. His milk measures should be thoroughly clean and should be kept in a closed vessel when not actually delivering. When milk is delivered in cans it should be properly covered. The Customer should present a clean receptacle, and should store the milk in such a way as to prevent contamination.

### Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were investigated:—

Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Paratyphoid
7	4	1	3

Every effort is made to locate the source of infection, and to prevent the spread of the disease.

One case of Scarlet Fever, one Enteric, and the two Paratyphoid cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

42 Rooms were fumigated as follows:—

Tuberculosis 11, Scarlet Fever 7, Diphtheria 4, Poliomyelitis 1, Cancer 12, Enteric 1, Paratyphoid 3, By request 3.

In addition to the above 2 wards at the North Devon Infirmary, and 4 houses were disinfected.

74 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected, and 2 lots destroyed. One house was thoroughly sprayed owing to its verminous condition.

### Factories and Workshops.

83 inspections were made to the following premises:—

11 Carpenters.	4 Tailors.
5 Boot Repairers.	4 Laundries.
3 Cycle Repairers.	2 Tar Mac Factories.
1 Collar Factory.	1 Ice Factory.
6 Offensive Trade Premises.	1 Pottery.
1 Manure Stores.	1 Rustic Oak Works.



2 Turning Factories.	1 Saw Mills.
1 Blacksmith.	1 Joinery.
1 Printing Works.	1 Upholsterer.
1 Cabinet Making.	3 Motor Repairers.
1 Mat Making.	1 Shunt Regulator.
1 Sweet Factory.	3 Other Workshops.
26 Bakehouses.	

New lavatory accommodation, and new drains were provided at two workshops, and a W.C., which was found to ventilate into a workshop was removed.

8 workshops were cleansed and nuisances abated at 9 other premises.

The 13 Bakehouses were visited at irregular times and found satisfactory. The linewashing is carried out regularly. Offensive trade premises also receive the usual inspection.

### Common Lodging House.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the town. Visits are made from time to time, and the premises are always found in a satisfactory state.

### Petroleum and Explosives Acts.

There are 39 premises licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, 11 of which are also licensed for storing Carbide of Calcium. 3 premises are licensed for Carbide of Calcium only. There are 26 bulk storage tanks and pumps in addition to the depots at the G.W.R. yard.

The total quantity of Petroleum for which licenses are issued is 105,398 gallons. The quantity of Carbide of Calcium for which licenses are issued is 2 tons.

There are 15 premises registered for the keeping of Mixed Explosives, and 1 store license for Mixed Explosives. All these premises are visited from time to time, and instructions given where required.

The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations carried out under the Public Health Acts and the Housing Acts, together with the totals for the years 1921 to 1925 inclusive.

	Public Health Acts.	Housing Acts.	Total for 1925.	Total under Public Health Acts for 5 years.	Total under the Housing Acts for 5 years.	Grand Total for 5 years. 1921-1925.
New sets of house drains laid	15	...	15	144	9	153
Drains repaired	11	2	13	96	12	108
Drains cleared	35	...	35	222	...	222
New interceptors fixed	26	...	26	119	...	119
New inspection chambers built	36	1	37	218	13	231
Fresh air inlets provided	25	...	25	115	...	115
New gullies fixed	55	2	57	301	12	313
New soil pipes fixed	6	...	6	31	...	31
New vent pipes provided	16	4	20	97	4	101
Rain pipes repaired	2	2	4	11	2	13
Rain pipes disconnected from drain	8	2	10	29	2	31
New water closets built	2	1	3	42	8	50
New W.C. pans provided	34	7	41	217	17	234
New flushing cisterns fixed	24	3	27	82	11	93
Flushing cisterns repaired	3	1	4	41	4	45
Water closets cleansed	...	3	3	54	15	69
New scullery troughs provided	2	10	12	41	28	69

New scullery waste pipes fixed	...	2	10	12	25	11	36
Rooms cleansed	...	25	40	65	279	125	404
Rooms repaired	...	10	14	24	53	30	83
Rooms provided with better light and ventilation	...	2	...	2	6	10	16
Floors renewed or repaired	...	6	11	17	30	15	45
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	23	16	39
Windows made to open...	...	...	4	4	26	20	46
New sash cords provided	...	8	2	10	20	5	25
New windows fixed	...	...	10	10	28	20	48
Yards cemented	...	12	6	18	88	33	121
Yards repaired	...	1	...	1	36	...	36
Dampness remedied	...	6	2	8	38	14	52
Guttering renewed or repaired	...	3	...	3	17	12	29
Outside renewed or repaired	...	3	6	9	13	9	22
Back parts limewashed	...	...	1	1	18	8	26
Ladders provided	...	...	15	15	29	24	53
Ladders cleansed	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
New sculleries built	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Coppers built	...	...	3	...	...	7	7
Coppers repaired	...	3	2	5	14	6	20
Treads of stairs repaired	...	...	2	2	...	10	10
Wash houses cemented	...	...	...	...	6	...	6
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	2	...	2	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	14	...	14
Overcrowding abated	...	4	...	4	11	...	11
Smoke and water tests applied to drains	...	209	...	209	1180	...	1180
Miscellaneous	...	16	4	20	77	12	89
Premises where nuisances have been abated	...	137	...	137	961	...	961

## Summary of Inspections, etc.

	Totals 1925.	Totals for 5 years.
Visits made ...	2258	11910
„ to Slaughterhouses ...	759	2889
„ „ Butcher Shops ...	565	2483
„ „ Other Foodshops ...	30	139
Cowsheds Inspected ...	54	269
Dairies „ ...	53	273
Piggeries „ ...	12	123
Common Lodging House ...	12	60
Bakehouses ...	26	110
Workshops ...	83	396
Offensive Trade Premises ...	6	} 105
Knackers Yard ...	33	
Letters written ...	195	646
Preliminary Notices (Public Health Acts)	13	201
„ „ (Housing Acts) ...	12	44
Verbal Notices ...	77	255
Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) ...	5	} 25
„ „ (Housing Acts) ...	4	

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

### Offensive Trades.

Frequent inspections have been made of a Knacker's yard both by the Sanitary Inspector, and the M.O.H. On every such inspection the premises have been found to be cleanly kept and no nuisance has ever been found to exist there. Both of these officers have attended throughout the process of opening the digester, and the running off of the fat. This operation gives rise to nothing more than a slightly unpleasant smell of cooking. Suggestions have been made that the bones heaped together after coming out of the digester attract flies. This does not appear to be born out by the actual facts. Indeed it is hardly to be expected that it would, since the bones are in a

much drier condition than those which have been well boiled for soup in the household. They are so dry and brittle that most of the long bones can be easily broken between the hands.

### Housing.

A detailed statement is included in the latter part of this report showing the progress that has been made in the provision of new houses for the working classes. There are still a large number of houses required and their lack is severely handicapping the Council in dealing with the very worst class of house which ought to be closed as unfit for habitation.

There are several cases of over crowding in the area, cases in which the overcrowding is not such as can be dealt with on the question of available airspace. If alternative accommodation were available these people could be induced to move. It is to be hoped that the Council will expedite their new housing to the utmost of their power.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	68
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, 1924 :—						
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	28
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	32

#### 1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection. (1)—Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	59
(2)—Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	16
(3)—Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	0

(4)—Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	30
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## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	30
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## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

### *A—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1)—Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
---	---

(2)—Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
--	--

(a) by owners ... ..	4
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0

(3)—Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	0
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### *B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)—Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	5
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(2)—Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0



*C—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 Housing Act, 1925.*

(1)—Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	0
(2)—Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(3)—Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit	3
(4)—Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5)—Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

**Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

The experience of the district with regard to the prevalence of infectious diseases during 1925, has been very fortunate. Of the seven cases of Scarlet fever notified, one was promptly isolated as it was a sporadic case arising with no previous traceable case. There was no spread of the disease. Of the remainder three were notified when they were convalescent not having seen a doctor previously.

Of the Diphtheria cases one occurred in February, one in April and two in December. Of these the adult cases were very mild and not clinically thought to be Diphtheria, both proved to have positive swabs.

There were five cases of the Enteric group two of them due to *B. Typhosus*, the others were of the paratyphoid type. One case of Enteric was a casual who came from Wales originally. No cases of the disease had been notified in that area, but the man had been on the road some time and it was quite impossible to trace his movements. The one case that died, was away from the district.

Influenza was not severe in type or extensive in amount ; five cases died of it during the year.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica have been notified, there were however several cases where the suspicion was raised that the patient was suffering from this disease.

There were notified 20 cases of Pneumonia with six deaths. Eleven cases of Erysipelas occurred, eight of these are dated during the last quarter of the year. It is perhaps permissible to note here that up to the end of March, 1926, eight more cases have been notified. Sixteen cases in six months is a most unusual number for this district. The great majority have been facial and some have been unusually severe.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are made by the County Council bacteriologist at Exeter. These facilities are largely used and much appreciated.

Every endeavour is made to discover contacts and they are kept under unobtrusive observation.

Isolation is provided for such cases as are unable properly to be taken care of in their own homes. Special efforts are made to get first cases of Scarlet fever, and Diphtheria into the Local Isolation Hospital. Unfortunately the area is so small that the Hospital cannot be kept always open, even if every case arising were to be isolated. It would be a very great advance in the control of Infectious Diseases if an Isolation Hospital were provided for a large combined area.

Carrier cases. One of the Enteric cases remained a carrier for sometime after the disease had subsided. As he was a baker it was more than usually important that he should be free before returning to his work. The Council paid for the necessary bacteriological investigations until three consecutive negatives were obtained.

The Schick and Dick tests have not been used.

No trial has been made with the recently developed methods of immunization against Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

No vaccinations or revaccinations have been done by the M.O.H. under the 1917 regulations.





## Tuberculosis.

The following table gives (a) new case in 1925, (b) deaths, both are divided into the appropriate age groups :—

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
5	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	1
10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
20	5	1	0	0	3	4	1	0
25	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0
35	1	8	0	2	1	5	1	0
45	2	0	0	1	0	3	1	2
55	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and over	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	16	15	4	7	5	15	5	3

There has been no complaint as to the inefficient notification of Tuberculosis this year.

### Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken up to the present under these regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

The Council has not applied for any order under this section for the compulsory removal to hospital.

HERBERT C. JONAS, M.D., B.S. LOND.

Medical Officer of Health.

## Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

### *I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
	2	3	4
<b>Factories</b> ... ..	20	4 verbal	0
(Including Factory Laundries)			
<b>Workshops</b> ... ..	59	10 „	0
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
<b>Workplaces</b> ... ..	4		0
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			
<b>Total</b> ... ..	83	14	

### *2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions 5
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
	2	3	4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	8	8		
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—		
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—		
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	1	1		
Other Nuisances ... ..	4	4		
Sanitary accommodation	—	—		
{ insufficient ... ..	5	4		
{ unsuitable or defective	3	3		
{ not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation underground				
Bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..				
Other offences ... ..				
(Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.				
<b>Total</b> ... ..	21	20		

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

## Causes of Death in year 1925.

ALL CAUSES		M.	F.			M.	F.
	...	85	119	23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	2
1	Enteric fever...	...	1	24	Cirrhosis of liver ...	2	1
2	Small-pox ...	...	...	25	Acute and chronic nephritis	5	3
3	Measles ...	...	...	26	Puerperal sepsis ...	...	...
4	Scarlet fever ...	...	...	27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...
5	Whooping cough ...	3	3	28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ...	2	3
6	Diphtheria ...	1	...	29	Suicide ...	3	1
7	Influenza ...	2	3	30	Other deaths from violence	4	...
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	31	Other defined diseases	25	25
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	9	33	Special Causes (included above)	...	...
11	Other tuberculous diseases	3	2		Poliomyelitis ...	...	...
12	Cancer, malignant disease	12	20		Polioencephalitis	...	...
13	Rheumatic fever	...	1		Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...
14	Diabetes	1	2		Total ...	7	8
15	Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	2	8		Illegitimate ...	...	1
16	Heart disease...	9	14		Total Births	117	128
17	Arterio-sclerosis	3	4		Legitimate	111	121
18	Bronchitis	1	13		Illegitimate	6	7
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	3	3		Population	14	650
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	1				
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...				
22	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).	...	...				







